

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2549

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into contracts to assist the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, California, to implement a Basin Management Plan for the elimination of groundwater overdraft and seawater intrusion, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 26, 1995

Mr. FARR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into contracts to assist the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, California, to implement a Basin Management Plan for the elimination of groundwater overdraft and seawater intrusion, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds and declares the following:

5 (1) A serious groundwater overdraft problem
6 exists in the Pajaro Valley of Santa Cruz and Mon-
7 terey Counties, California.

1 (2) The groundwater overdraft problem in the
2 Pajaro Valley has resulted in seawater intrusion and
3 water quality degradation.

4 (3) Agricultural production is the leading indus-
5 try in the Pajaro Valley, with gross receipts of more
6 than \$460,000,000 in 1994.

7 (4) The Pajaro Valley Water Management
8 Agency (“Agency”) was established by the State of
9 California and the citizens of the Pajaro Valley to
10 eliminate the groundwater overdraft and preserve
11 agricultural production.

12 (5) The Agency was directed by California stat-
13 ute to develop a comprehensive plan to stabilize
14 groundwater supplies in an economically and envi-
15 ronmentally acceptable manner.

16 (6) The Agency has drafted and approved a
17 comprehensive plan, entitled the “Basin Manage-
18 ment Plan” dated November 1993, which will, when
19 implemented, stabilize the water resources of the
20 basin and address the problems of overdraft and
21 seawater intrusion by emphasizing water conserva-
22 tion and by developing supplemental sources of
23 water.

24 (7) The Secretary of the Interior needs author-
25 ization in order to enter into contracts or agree-

1 ments to assist the Agency in implementing the
2 Basin Management Plan.

3 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION.**

4 Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the au-
5 thority of the Secretary on entering into long-term con-
6 tracts or agreements, the Secretary of the Interior is au-
7 thorized to enter into such contracts or agreements as the
8 Secretary shall deem necessary to assist the Pajaro Valley
9 Water Management Agency to implement the provisions
10 of the Basin Management Plan, dated November 1993,
11 to prevent long-term groundwater overdraft, land subsid-
12 ence, and water quality degradation in Santa Cruz and
13 Monterey Counties, California.

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